



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

February 25, 2009

Dear Superintendents and Principals:

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of talk about the federal stimulus plan, and yet few reliable, concrete details of how that plan will affect Indiana schools. There have been many estimates of dollar amounts, widely varying timelines for disbursement, and conflicting theories about how dollars may be used. I'm sure this has left all of you confused.

While I wish I could write to you today with definitive answers to your important questions, the fact of the matter is that very little is definite yet, except that Indiana will be receiving roughly \$1.3 billion. We are still awaiting information from the US Department of Education ("USDOE") on the timelines, restrictions and regulations on these funds. We've been informed by the USDOE that we will start receiving detailed guidance early next week.

You have my commitment that we will provide you with information as quickly as we receive it from the federal government. As you begin your strategic planning regarding use of the stimulus funds, I encourage you to think about one-time projects that will measurably improve student learning without committing to recurring costs that will be difficult to sustain.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tony Bennett
Superintendent of Public Instruction